JUSTICE LEAGUE®

TASK FORCE™

JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE

15

AUG 94

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

BY WAID, VELLUTO & ALBRECHT

Velluto
Albrecht

"ARE... ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?"

"BE HONEST ABOUT IT, J'ONN. WE WORKED WELL TOGETHER, THE FIVE OF US. HE'S JUST SUGGESTING WE MAKE A HABIT OF IT.

"THINK OF THE GOOD WE COULD DO. WE COULD FORM A TEAM...

"...A LEAGUE...

"...TO UPHOLD JUSTICE."

"SURE, IT SOUNDS CORNY... BUT MAYBE WE COULD REALLY STAND FOR SOMETHING. SOMETHING LASTING.

"SOMETHING THAT WILL STAND THE TEST OF TIME."

SILVER AGES

STORY: MARK WAID
PENCILS: SAL VELLUTO
INKS: JEFF ALBRECHT
LETTERER: BOB PINAHA
COLORIST: PHIL ALLEN
ASSISTANT EDITOR: RUBEN DIAZ
EDITOR: BRIAN AUGUSTYN

CALIFORN-EYE-A.

BRIGHT LIGHTS.

MOVIE STARS.

HOLLYWOOD

AND HOT COPY.

--ACCOUNTANT FOR HIS MINISTRY WANTS FIVE GRAND TO SELL HIS STORY--

--DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE HAS. FLASHMAN WOULD PAY TEN--

--TELL HIM WE'LL GUARANTEE A NINE-SIX SHARE FOR THE ABUSED ROADIE--

--PRESIDENT STILL COULDN'T EXPLAIN HIS ABSENCE OF PANTS--

HOT COPY

HOT COPY

HOT COPY

--TRAPPED IN A SNOWSTORM FOR A WEEK WITH HER TEST-TUBE BABIES?! BLURB IT AS A STORY OF SURVIVAL AND COURAGE--

--GLUED HIS WHAT TO HIS--? MY GOD! GET ME A NETWORK ON LINE THREE... ANY NETWORK--

HUNG JURY? NO VERDICT?!

EDITORIAL

MARTY, WE HAVE A LEAD ON AN EGG FARMER IN OSHKAGULA, ALABAMA. CLAIMS HE WAS ABDUCTED BY THANAGARIANS!

HOLD ON, VERA...

...NO VERDICT? THEN THE BOOK DEAL DROPS FORTY PERCENT! FOR GOD'S SAKE, GET AN EXCLUSIVE WITH THE JURORS WHILE WE CAN STILL SALVAGE SOMETHING! CALL ME!

VERA... ANOTHER U.F.O. ABDUCTEE? DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME. HAS HE GOT AN ANGLE?

THE UNITED STATES OF AMER

CLAIMS HE WAS A SHE BEFORE THE ABDUCTION...

OH, BABY! NOW WE GOT A STORY!

THE UNITED STATES

WE GOT A STRINGER ON THE OSHKAGULA FARM-HERALD! PATCH HIM THROUGH WHEN HE CALLS!

AND TELL McPHERSON TO GET HIS CRACK IN HERE!

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, BOSS?

NO. I WANTED TO SEE RESULTS! YOU, I'LL SETTLE FOR-- 'CAUSE YOU'RE GONNA GET 'EM FOR ME!

COME LOOK AT THE BIG BOARD, McP!

SEE THIS CUTIE? HER NAME WAS ICE! ACCORDING TO OUR REPORTS, SHE GAVE HER LIFE TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE OVERMASTER!

YOU REMEMBER THE OVERMASTER, McP! THE GUY WHO GOT A ONE HUNDRED SHARE LAST WEEK? HIM!

HER SACRIFICE, LEADFOOT, IS THE BIGGEST STORY SINCE THE DEATH OF SUPERMAN-- AND HOT COPY HAS NO EXCLUSIVE ANGLE TO BROKER!

MARTY? TANA MOON OF KONA-TV HOLDING ON LINE TWO...

TANA MOON! THIS IS WHAT I'M SAYING, McPHERSON!

THE HOT COPY NEWS SERVICE IS IN TOTAL DEMAND! WHO CORNERS THE MARKET ON TABLOID NEWS AND SCANDAL? WHO AGENTED THE FIRST PHOTOS OF THE NEW GREEN LANTERN? WHO BOOKED THE MOVIE DEAL FOR LEX LUTHOR'S SECRETARY?

AND WHO HAS ZIP, ZILCH, ZED ON ICE?

YOU REALIZE WHAT THE RIGHTS TO HER STORY ARE WORTH IN MOVIE-OF-THE-WEEK DOLLARS ALONE? THIS IS KEY, McP!

THE WHOLE FRIGGIN' JUSTICE LEAGUE IS IN NEW YORK CITY. WE'RE AT THE FUNERAL HOME FOR ICE'S SERVICE... WE'RE STAKED OUT AT THEIR TEMP HQ... WE'VE GOT THOUSANDS OF STRINGERS...

...AND MY OFFICE MANAGER IS TELLIN' ME THEY CAN'T GET ONE SUPER-HERO ON RECORD ABOUT ICE'S SACRIFICE?

THEY'RE TRYING, MARTY...

NOT HARD ENOUGH! WE GET A LEAGUER ON CAMERA TALKING ABOUT ICE, THAT FILM IS WORTH A HALF-MIL-- MAYBE MORE!

GET ME A LEAGUER! HUSTLE! HUSTLE!

"HUSTLE!"

YOU WERE HER TEAMMATE, AMAZING MAN! GIVE US YOUR IMPRESSIONS?

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HOT COPY

WAS ICE EVIL-- OR JUST HORRIBLY MISGUIDED?

PLEASE-- NO COMMENT--!

WE HEARD SHE DESTROYED THE LEAGUE'S U.N. HEADQUARTERS SINGLE-HANDEDLY! HAD SHE ALWAYS BEEN EVIL?

WHEN DID HER TRUE COLORS SHOW THROUGH?

HOT COPY

HOT COPY

AND WHAT OF DESPERO? DOES HE, IN FACT, DO NEEDLE-POINT TO RELAX?

HEY!

AND TASMANIAN DEVIL-- IF YOU CUT OFF HIS NOSE, HOW DOES HE SMELL?

'SCUSE ME, BUSTER!

PRESS

HOT COPY

SONY

I...DON'T KNOW...

THEN DON'T ANSWER! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DEAL WITH THE INNUENDO THESE LOWLIFES SPREAD, MY FRIEND--

--AND THAT'S TO RISE ABOVE IT!

...J'ONN?!

WHEW-- THANKS FOR THE LIFT!

HOT COPY

HOT COPY

MY TREMENDOUS PLEASURE, WILLIAM ANYTHING TO ESCAPE THE TABLOID VULTURES.

HELLO, J'ONN. I SEE YOU FOUND US WITHOUT PROBLEM.

YOU'LL EXCUSE THE ACCOMMODATIONS-- BUT WE'VE GONE AD HOC WITH AN HQ 'TIL WE RESOLVE RELATIONS WITH THE U.N.... ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

IT...WILL DO, FLASH. WILLIAM, YOU HANDLED YOURSELF WELL. THE LEAGUE HAS ALREADY GIVEN ITS STATEMENTS REGARDING ICE TO THE LEGITIMATE PRESS.

THE ONE THING THAT BINDS OUR FRAGILE GROUP TOGETHER AT THIS MOMENT IS A VOW NOT TO SPEAK TO "HOT COPY."

GOD HELP US IF WE SINK THAT LOW...

...MAXIMA? HOW IS METAMORPHO?

HEALING.

THE INJURIES HE SUSTAINED DURING BATTLE WOULD HAVE KILLED AN ORDINARY MAN...

BUT NOT... AN ELEMENT MAN, BABE! OL' REX... IS MADE OF STRONGER STUFF... ALL KINDS OF STRONGER STUFF!

A JOKE...?

A SURE SIGN OF RECOVERY! BE WELL, REX.

HE WILL SURVIVE... AS WILL THE LEAGUE ITSELF. THIS, WILLIAM, IS NOT A TIME FOR DISSOLUTION... BUT FOR GROWTH.

IN RECENT YEARS, I FEAR THE LEAGUE HAS BECOME TOO FRAGMENTED..SPREAD ITSELF TOO THIN. IT NEEDS REORGANIZATION.

WHICH BRINGS US TO YOU. YOUR PERFORMANCE IN COMBAT WAS EXEMPLARY--AND YOUR WELCOME PRESENCE IS THE FIRST STEP IN A CONSOLIDATION OF POWER...

FUNNY... CAPTAIN ATOM WAS SAYING THE SAME THING. HE'S BEEN TALKING TO SOME OF US ABOUT REBUILDING HIS LEAGUE... WANTED TO KNOW IF I'D LIKE TO--

"HIS"...?

EXCUSE ME, J'ONN...

...WILL, MAY WE SPEAK? I HAVE MY OWN THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE... AND I'D LIKE TO SHARE THEM WITH YOU...

--WXRJ TALK RADIO. TODAY'S TOPIC: THE RECENT SPATE OF TERRORIST BOMBINGS IN THE BIG APPLE! TO DATE, NINE GROUPS AND TWO INDIVIDUALS--

--ONE WEARING A TIN-FOIL HAT--

--HAVE CLAIMED FULL RESPONSIBILITY.

Lincoln Tunnel

THE PORT AUTHORITY

WHO'S REALLY BEHIND THESE ACTS OF DESTRUCTION? WE HAVE A CALL...

YOU AMERICAN PIG! YOU CHOOSE TO MAKE JOKES WHILE YOUR PEOPLE DIE--AND WHILE OURS ROT IN YOUR CAPITALIST PRISONS?

YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS YET TO TAKE THE CRIMSON JIHAD SERIOUSLY! THAT WILL CHANGE--

--IMMEDIATELY!

HOLY--!

FARES
.75 FIRST 1/8 MILE
.50 FOLLOWING MILES

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BWAROOGMN

GOOD GOD!

ATTENTION ALL CARS--THIS IS UNIT TWELVE! THERE'S BEEN SOME SORT OF EXPLOSION IN THE LINCOLN TUNNEL! ALL UNITS RESPOND!

WEO WEO WEO

SCREEEEEEECHA

KEEP IN LANE

LOOKS LIKE THE CALL HAS ALREADY GONE OUT, OFFICER!

HELP IS ON THE WAY!

WE MUST ACT QUICKLY!

RAY! CLEAR A PATH!

DONE!

EVERYONE ELSE CONCENTRATE ON EVACUATION! WE CAN'T GET THESE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE FAST ENOUGH!

HURRY!

GOT 'ER STEADY, FOX! YOU WANNA PULL THEM RUG-RATS FREE?

IT'S ALL RIGHT, CHILDREN... STAY CALM!

DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE...

...WATER...

...OH, NO...

KA-WOOSH!

NO!

THE RIVER--IT'S FLOODING THE TUNNEL!

CAN'T--HOLD IT--BACK!

NOT--STRONG ENOUGH--!

FLASH--KEEP WORKING!

THE REST OF YOU GATHER 'ROUND!

WE MUST WORK TOGETHER! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE! CONCENTRATE--OPEN YOUR MINDS TO ME--

--SO THAT I MAY TELEPATHICALLY FUNNEL YOUR MENTAL ENERGIES INTO MAXIMA'S FORCE-FIELD!

IT'S--HOLDING--!

BECAUSE WE'RE FOCUSED AS A UNIT! THAT'S THE SOLUTION TO ANY CRISIS!

A FINE PLATITUDE, J'ONN-- BUT HARDLY HELPFUL NOW! THE MEMBER MOST CAPABLE OF HANDLING THIS CRISIS... IS GONE!

WOULD THAT ICE WERE HERE...

WELL, SHE'S NOT, IS SHE?

AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT? MY TEAM'S NOT TAKING ANY MORE HEAT FOR--

WOOSSHHHH

GET OUT! ALL OF YOU!

NOW!

I WILL HANDLE THIS--

--MYSELF!

AWRIGHT!
EPIC STUFF, MAN!
THEY'RE THE BEST!
SPEED LIMIT 35
EEP IN LANE
GREEN MOSSHIN MANS?
HE'S A HERO, BABY! THEY ALL ARE!
THEY'RE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAPCLAP
MY APOLOGIES, J'ONN. RAY BROKE MY CONCENTRATION--
ME? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT UP ICE!
SORRY IF YOUR CONSCIENCE GOT TO YOU, RAY! DON'T FORGET THAT YOUR TEAM WAS PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO--
CAN WE QUOTE YOU ON THAT, FOX?
LOLA BARNETT, HOT COPY! YOUR FIRST MAJOR MISSION WITHOUT THE VILLAINOUS ICE--TELL US HOW HER ABSENCE HAS HELPED TEAM MORALE!
YOU WANT TO GIVE THEM A STATEMENT ON THE MISSION, MAXIMA?
GLADLY.
HOT COPY
"OUR WORK HERE IS DONE.
"LET OTHERS CLEAN UP THE TRASH!"

PATHETIC.

THE ONLY FORCE THE MIGHTY JUSTICE LEAGUE CAN COMBAT... IS THE TABLOID PRESS.

A SAD STATE OF AFFAIRS... Eh, GYPSY?

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE

YOU KNEW I WAS HERE?

WHAT AM I SAYING? WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS. TELEPATHS KNOW EVERY-THING!

UNTRUE. IT WOULD SEEM WE KNOW INCREASINGLY LITTLE ABOUT TEAM DYNAMICS.

IT'S GOING TO BE TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT TO PULL THIS LEAGUE TOGETHER. STILL, WITH YOUR HELP...

...I MAIN-TAIN A GLIMMER OF HOPE...

J'ONN...

...J'ONN!

YOU'VE FOR-GOTTEN WE HAVE OUR OWN ISSUES TO WORK OUT.

YOU LEFT ME ON A MOUNTAINSIDE,* J'ONN.

...I...TIME WAS SLIPPING... THE WORLD WAS...

...I...HAD NO CHOICE.

I REALIZE THAT.

*LAST ISSUE.--Brian.

BUT I DON'T HAVE TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT IT.

I NEED SOME TIME ON MY OWN, J'ONN...TO SORT THIS THROUGH.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR TEAM.

J'ONN, WAIT! IT'S ME-- REMEMBER?

YOU HAVE TO HELP ME, J'ONN! IT'S THE ALIENS-- THEY'RE BACK!

J'ONNNNNN...!

THE UNITED NATIONS CAN GO HANG...

...AND YOU CAN SWING WITH THEM, MAX!

THE "LEAGUEBUSTERS"! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SENT A SQUAD HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD JUST TO FIGHT US! MY GOD, MAN, YOUR OWN TEAM--

--WAS IN SHAMBLES-- AND STILL IS!

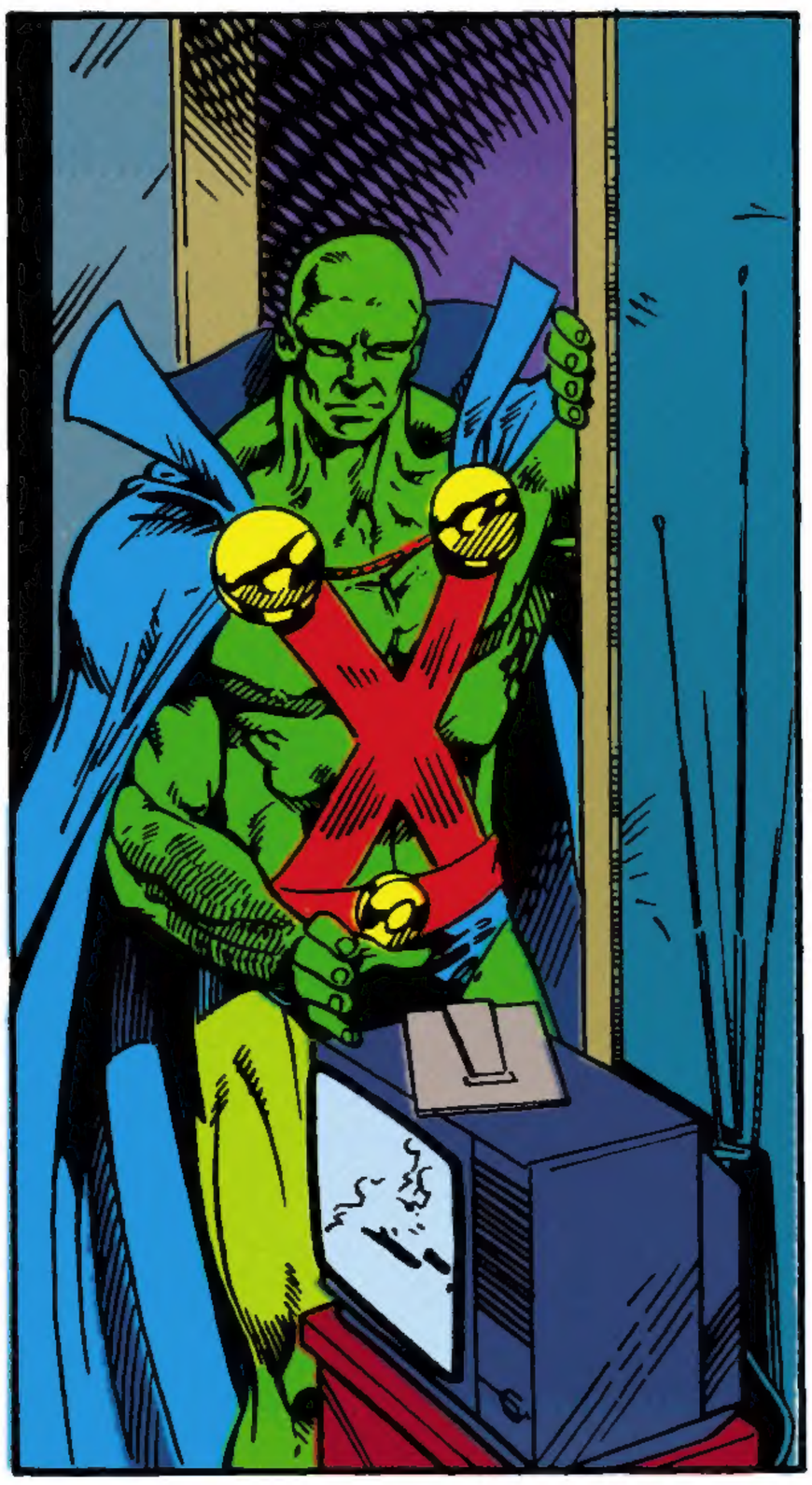
YOU WERE OUT OF CONTROL! WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM, ATOM? TOO MANY CHIEFS AND NOT ENOUGH INDIANS?

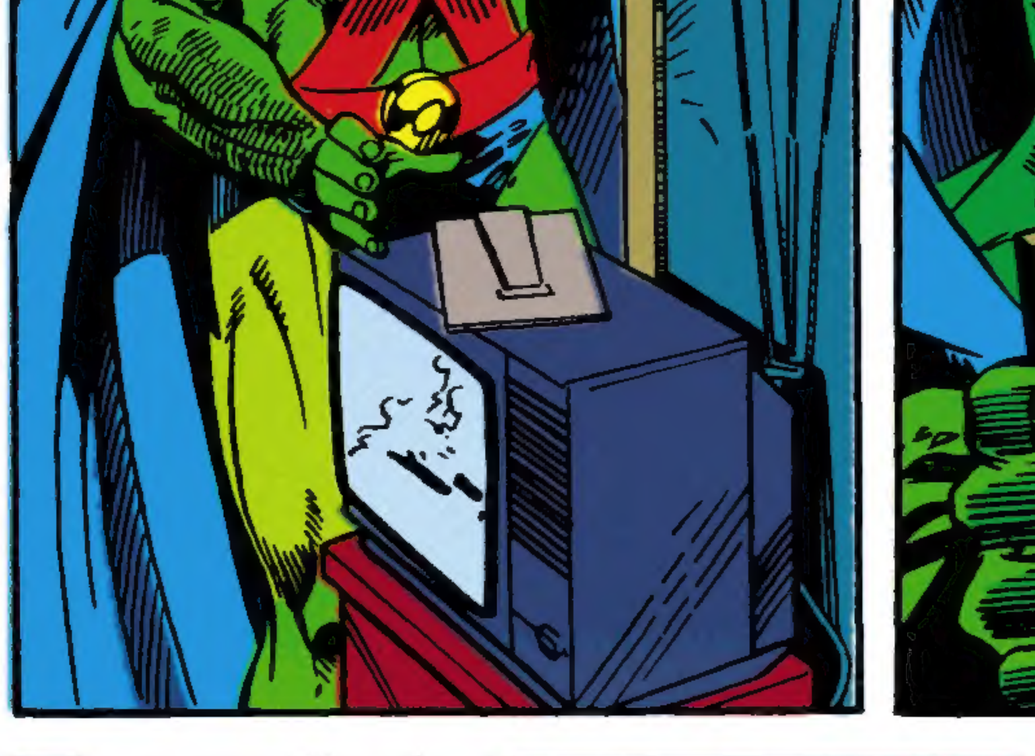
J'ONN, YOU'RE WITH ME ON THIS, AREN'T YOU?

J'ONN?

...A WEEK AGO, THEY WERE THE BAD GUYS... AND NOW WONDER WOMAN'S OFFERING SENECA AND OSIRIS A MEMBERSHIP?!

WELL, ATOM WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THEM. SMALL COMFORT...




...ISN'T THE LEAGUE I REMEMBER.
Ah, STICK IT IN YOUR FIN. WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, WE AT LEAST STAND BY OUR PRINCIPLES... RIGHT, J'ONN?

J'ONN?

I DON'T GET IT! WHAT'S EATING--

CRASH

--HIM?

TERRIFIC. ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST. WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE DROVE HIM OUT?

SLAM

TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF.

.....

TOTAL SCOOP

HOT COPY

HOT COPY

INSIDE PITCH

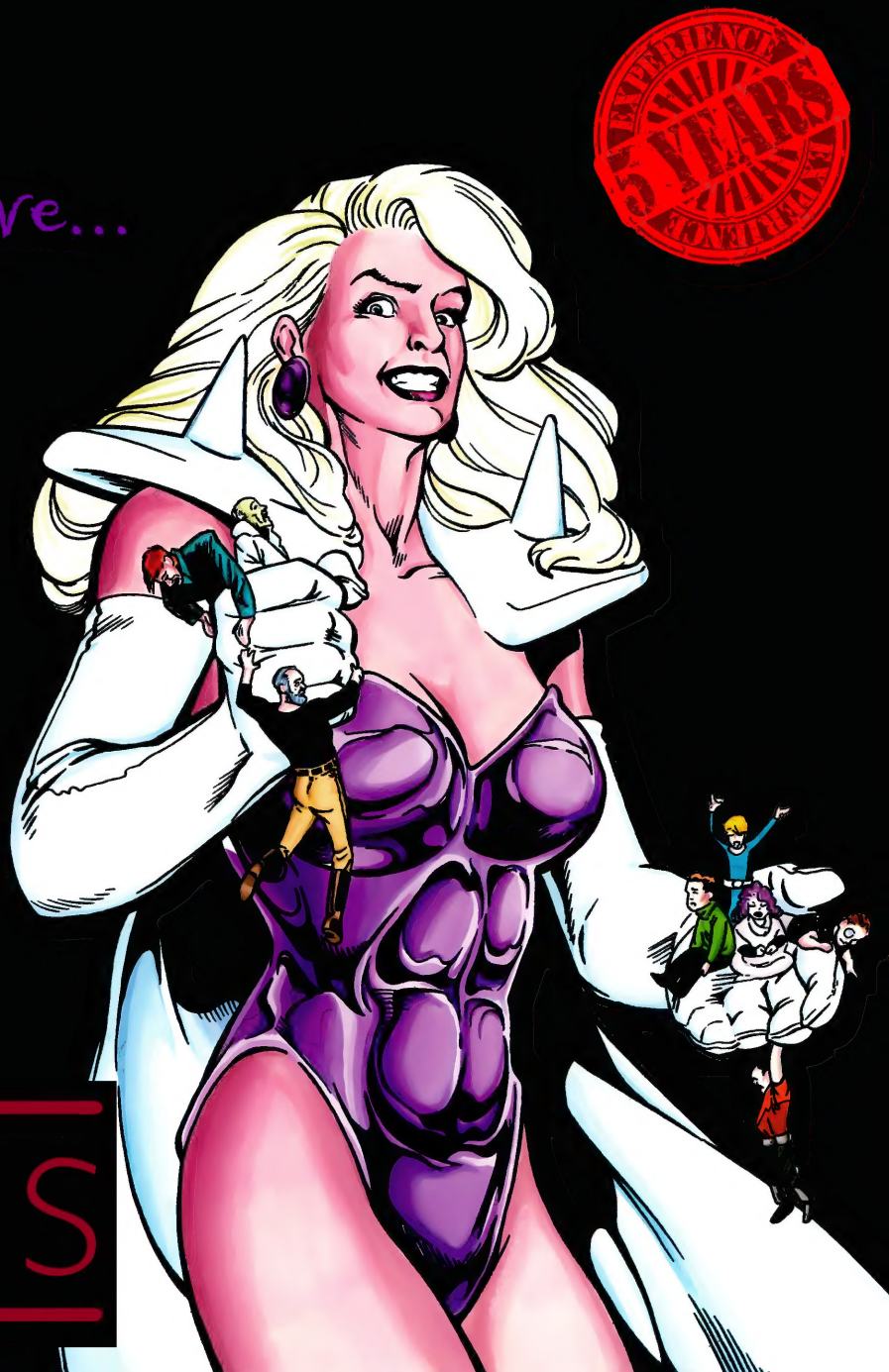
HOT COPY

...BE GLAD TO TALK TO YOU ALL ABOUT TORA OLAFSDOTTER... BETTER KNOWN AS ICE.

WHO HAS A QUESTION?

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK IN JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL #67!

From Baaldur, with love...



GLORITH

novus